

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-5, 13-17, 22-27, 33, 36, 38, 40, 43, 45 and 47-52 are all the claims pending in the application. Non-elected claims 6-12, 18-21, 28-32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 46 have been canceled by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 33, 36, 38, 40, 43 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that each of the above-noted claims do not qualify as a statutory process under 35 U.S.C. 101 based on the USPTO Memorandum dated May 15, 2008.

By this amendment, Applicants note that claims 33, 36, 38, 40, 43 and 45 have each been amended such that the process is tied to a particular apparatus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 33, 36, 38, 40, 43 and 45 is directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101 based on the USPTO Memorandum dated May 15, 2008. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-3, 5, 13-17, 22-27 and 47-52 are allowed. Regarding non-elected claim 4, Applicants note that this claim depends from allowed claim 3, and therefore should be rejoined and indicated as allowable.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Hisao SASAI et al.

/Kenneth W. Fields/

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Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicants

KWF/rgf
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
February 17, 2009